

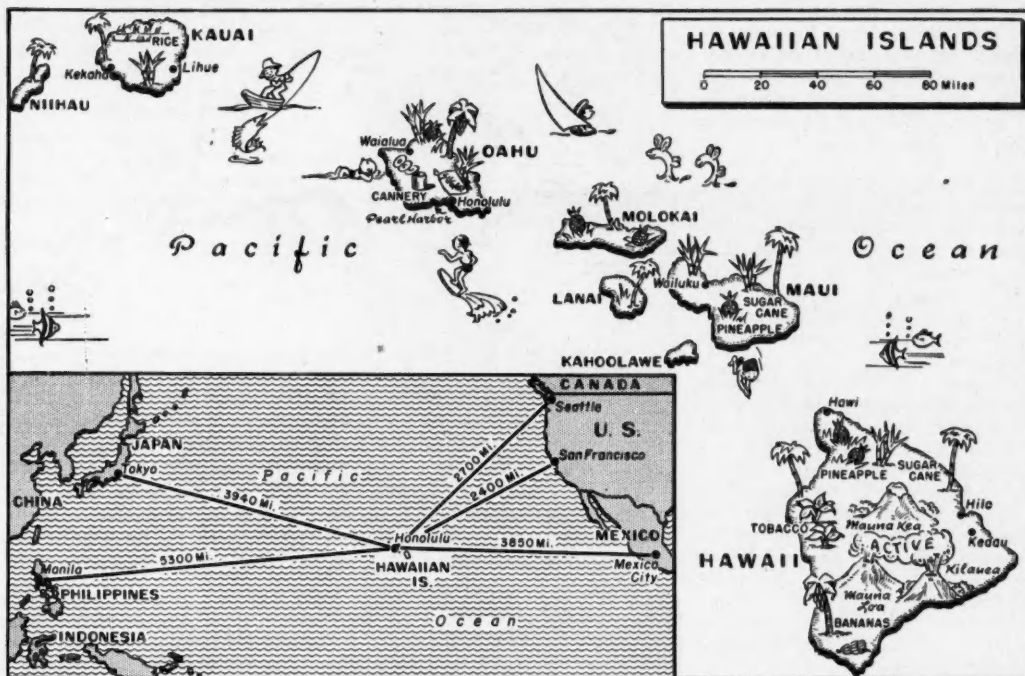
# The American Observer

*A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends.—James Monroe*

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PRESIDENT EISENHOWER wants Congress to pass legislation making Hawaii the 49th State of the Union

## Will Hawaii Gain Statehood?

**Its Prospects Are Good, but Alaska May Be Turned Down**

President Eisenhower recently called attention to certain areas, under U.S. control, which do not have the same political rights that our 48 states possess. One of these is Hawaii, and he asked that it be allowed to enter the Union as a full-fledged state. Another, lying within our continental boundaries, is the District of Columbia. Its people at present do not even control their local government, and Eisenhower indicated that they should be permitted to do so.

When Congress starts discussing these two areas, others are sure to be mentioned. For instance there is Alaska, which wants to be admitted to statehood along with Hawaii. There are Puerto Rico, Guam, and many additional territories and possessions. Their status has from time to time caused much debate.

We are devoting a large part of this issue to the important subject of how the United States governs those areas that do not have statehood. Next week we shall return to the customary presentation of our regular features.

**F**ORTY-ONE years ago this month, Arizona entered the Union as our 48th state. There have been no further admissions, and so since 1912 the number of stars in our flag has remained unchanged.

Soon, though, there may be at least 49 stars. In speaking to Congress recently, President Eisenhower said: "The platforms of both political parties promised immediate statehood to

Hawaii. The people of that territory have earned that status. Statehood should be granted promptly." And just two weeks ago, when Eisenhower conferred with top House and Senate leaders, the Hawaiian statehood proposal was listed among the measures that are to get special attention in Congress.

Most people in the island territory are well pleased by these developments. Hawaii has been trying for half a century to join the Union as a full-fledged member.

In another part of the world, however, there is deep disappointment. Alaska, whose people have sought statehood for a number of years, is not included in the definite plans for early congressional action.

Later in this article we shall take up some possible reasons for the difference in the way the two territories are being treated. But we shall first turn to a more general discussion of the problems they face in common.

The United States has a great many territories and possessions—such as Guam in the far Pacific, and Puerto Rico in the Caribbean area. Hawaii and Alaska, though, are governed differently from the others. They are known as "incorporated territories." Provisions of the U.S. Constitution and of our federal laws extend to them just as to the states.

The people of Hawaii and Alaska pay federal income taxes. Hawaii, in fact, turns more revenue over to Uncle Sam than do several of our states.

Each of the two territories has a legislature, elected by its own people; and a governor, appointed by our President and approved by the Senate. The U.S. Congress can repeal any measure passed by either of the territorial legislatures, but it seldom, if ever, does so. Each territory sends to Washington a delegate who can attend sessions of the U.S. House of Representatives, who can speak and introduce bills, but who cannot cast any votes.

Why do Hawaii and Alaska desire statehood? There are several reasons. For one thing, they want to clear away forever all doubts that their lands are actually U.S. soil. Too many people make errors similar to the one that a writer of this paper once care-

lessly made. Several Asiatic students, he commented, were planning to visit Hawaii "and then continue on to the United States."

We heard from Hawaii immediately. *The Daily Pinion*, student paper of McKinley High School in Honolulu, cried out in righteous indignation: "Hawaii is a part of the United States."

Also, statehood would give Alaska and Hawaii certain powers that are today lacking. They could choose their own governors and numerous other officials who are now federally appointed, could send senators and representatives to Congress, could cast votes for President, and could have a voice in passing or defeating Constitutional amendments. Their legislatures would be as independent as are those of the other states.

Why do numerous people oppose admission of Alaska and Hawaii as full-fledged members of the Union? One argument frequently heard is that they are too far from the rest of our states. They are so distant, it is argued, that their inhabitants will never take the same interest in affairs of the whole nation as do—for instance—Californians, Kansans, or Pennsylvanians. In case of war, it is said, these outlying areas would be harder to defend than our present states.

Statehood's advocates answer as follows:

"The distance of these territories makes very little difference any more. We can now travel more easily from our Pacific Coast states to Alaska or Hawaii than a person could go from New York to Virginia in 1800.

"As to the military situation: We are already bound to defend Alaska and Hawaii as part of the United States. In fact, as World War II experiences proved, they are among the most strategically located portions of our country."

For both territories the statehood drive has, to some extent, been held back by political considerations in Congress. Many Democrats, regarding Hawaii as a Republican stronghold, have been reluctant to let the islanders have voting senators and representatives. Meanwhile Republi-

(Concluded on page 2)



THESE YOUNG STUDENTS and most other people of Hawaii want their land to become a state as quickly as possible

# Any New Stars for the American Flag?

(Concluded from page 1)

cans, and also southern Democrats, have felt that Alaska would frequently side against them. Political issues of this kind have often entered into our disputes over admission of new states.

**Problems about Hawaii.** When the Eisenhower-supported proposal for Hawaiian statehood comes before Congress, it will meet these further objections:

"The island people are largely of a different racial stock from that of the mainland's inhabitants. A majority of them are of Oriental descent. We shouldn't admit a state so many of whose people differ in race and background from those of other states.

"Furthermore, there has been a great deal of communist influence in Hawaii. Communists have been extremely active in the islands' principal labor union. The islanders, therefore, should not be given increased political power."

Americans who favor Hawaiian statehood reply:

"Regardless of race, Hawaii's people are already citizens of the United States—and loyal ones besides. Their record of loyalty during World War II was excellent. Why would a majority of these people be calling for full membership in our Union of states if they did not have a strong feeling of devotion to this country? And in what better way than by admitting Hawaii to the Union could we give the world an example of racial friendship?"

"It is true that Hawaii, like various other parts of the United States, has had trouble with communists. However, she has taken vigorous action against them. Hawaii is ready for statehood and our federal Union needs her as a state."

This island territory which we have been discussing is a little more than 2,000 miles southwest of San Francisco, on the northern edge of the Tropics. Consisting of eight main islands and several smaller ones, it has a total land area somewhat larger than that of Connecticut. It has approximately half a million people—about as many as live in New Hampshire.

Hawaii is a stopping place for ships and planes traveling between the U.S. mainland and the Far East.

It is also a tourist attraction in its own right, with beautiful beaches, famous volcanoes, and delightful climate. About 50,000 people visited the islands last year.

The territory gets its name from its largest island, Hawaii. The most thickly settled island, however, is Oahu. It contains Honolulu—the Hawaiian capital—and also our big Pearl Harbor naval base where the Japanese first attacked Americans in World War II.

Sugar and pineapples are Hawaii's main products. The island territory provides about one seventh of all the sugar our country uses, and is responsible for most of the world's pineapple supply.

The young people in Hawaii have good schools, and their courses of study are similar to those found on the mainland.

**Alaska.** While Hawaii's prospects for statehood are perhaps brighter than ever before, Alaska is disappointed that her requests for full-fledged membership in the Union are not getting so much attention. Polls taken in recent years indicate that statehood is desired by most of the Alaskan people, though it does have some strong opposition within the territory.

Here are some of the arguments used against Alaska's receiving statehood at this time:

"If Alaska were now admitted to the Union, it would be our largest state in area, and probably our smallest in population. Though more than twice as large as Texas, it had fewer than 130,000 people at the time of the 1950 census. Nevada, our state which now ranks last in population, had 160,000. While it is true that Alaska's population is growing by leaps and bounds, she still has very few people in comparison with our states.

"At present, the U.S. government takes care of many administrative services that would have to be handled by the state if Alaska entered the Union. Financing a state government to take care of Alaska's vast stretches of territory would constitute a heavy burden for her relatively few people.

"Nearly all the land in Alaska is still owned by the federal govern-



ALASKA'S MAINLAND is less than 60 miles from that of Communist Russia. Lying in between these lands are islands owned by Russia and the United States. Some of these are only a few miles apart.

ment. Moreover, Alaska is a critical defense outpost, and U.S. military activities will long continue to have a tremendous influence upon practically all phases of life in that northern territory. In short, the federal government is bound to play a big role in Alaskan affairs, regardless of the area's political status. It would not make sense for Alaska to become a state under these circumstances."

People who favor Alaskan statehood reply as follows:

"Alaska's size and population do not provide any convincing argument against her entering the Union. Look at the contrasts among our present states. There is Rhode Island, which would fit into Texas about 220 times. There is Nevada, whose 1950 population was smaller than that of Flint, Michigan. Alaska, regardless of population, is an important part of our country and deserves statehood.

"Besides, it is a rapidly developing territory. Alaska is undergoing a boom somewhat similar to the one in Canada. U.S. defense projects account for much of her growth, but a large part of it is based solidly on development of the northern land's rich resources. Alaska will grow faster as a state, with increased control over her own destinies, than she will as a territory.

"In regard to the question of finances, a Senate Committee majority report declared in 1950 that 'Alaska can assume all essential additional costs of statehood.'

"Of course the federal government must carry on many activities in Alaska. It does in all our states. It owns vast tracts of land in the Rocky Mountain region. It has military installations throughout the country. These do not interfere with the statehood of the areas involved."

Many people who live in continental United States regard Alaska merely as a land of ice and snow. It does, of course, have frigid areas, especially along the Arctic coast and among the lofty mountain peaks, but it has much

else besides. Southern Alaska contains a great deal of land that is suitable for farming, and the climate of that section permits the people to raise good crops of grain, hay, and vegetables.

Alaska has a tremendous variety of natural resources. "Salmon, gold, and furs" are her traditional products, but these are not all. Her evergreen forests can provide vast amounts of lumber and paper. There are deposits of coal and petroleum. Alaskan mountain streams can furnish great quantities of hydroelectric current, and plans are under way to construct aluminum plants that will make use of this power.

## Land of Contrast

Though Alaska still contains areas of unexplored wilderness, its towns have modern shops, offices, and restaurants. The territory offers job opportunities for lawyers, doctors, engineers, and many others.

Eskimos and Indians make up roughly a fifth of the Alaskan population. Many of them still follow their ancient occupations of hunting and fishing, while others work in mines and canneries.

Alaska has great strategic importance because of her nearness to Soviet soil. In case of a world war, Russian bombers heading toward our industrial centers might seek to use the Alaskan route. Our forces stationed in Alaska are keeping a lookout for such planes as might attempt a surprise attack by way of the northern territory.

## Pronunciations

Kahoolawe—kah-hōō-lah-wē  
Kauai—cow-eye'  
Lanai—lah-ni'  
Luis Munoz Marin—lwēs mōō-nyōs'  
mah-rēn'  
Marianas—mah-rē-ah-nahs  
Maui—mou'e  
Molokai—maw-law-ki'  
Niuhau—nē-ē-how'  
Oahu—oh-ah'hōō  
Pago Pago—pahng'ō pahng'ō  
Puerto Rico—pwēr'tō rē'kō



KETCHIKAN is a modern port town in Alaska. It is a mining-timber center.

# Home Rule for the District of Columbia?

People of Washington, D. C., Now Have No Voice in Governing Their City

**A**MERICANS are proud of their nation's capital. Visitors who spend a few days in Washington, D. C., are nearly always impressed by its beauty. Many of them fail to realize that it has serious local problems, just as do all other big cities.

With over 800,000 people of its own, and hundreds of thousands more living in adjacent suburbs, the District of Columbia is a crowded place. Washington hasn't been able to build and repair its streets fast enough to keep up with the growing traffic load. Many of its public schools are filled to overflowing. As these lines are written, some Washington parents are keeping their children away from school in protest against crowded classroom conditions.

Hidden away from the view of casual visitors, along side streets and alleys, are slum areas which would be disgraceful anywhere, but which seem particularly out of place in the nation's capital. These contribute to a comparatively high crime rate.

Washington isn't alone in having such troubles. All cities face them in some degree. The main difference is that Washingtonians have no real power to tackle their problems. They have no voice in their city government. They don't elect any local officials. The District is governed by Congress—where Washingtonians have no representation—and by the President—for whom they cannot vote.

When people in other cities become dissatisfied with their governments, they can seek a change at the polls. Washingtonians cannot. They can only make requests of a Congress that is heavily burdened with national and world responsibilities, and is sometimes annoyed with its job as Washington's "city council."

Washington, which fills the entire District of Columbia, can trace its situation to provisions of the U. S. Constitution. That document says that Congress is to "exercise exclusive legislation . . . over such District as may . . . become the seat of the government of the United States." The Constitution does not give this District any representation in Congress, or any vote for President.

Today, District laws and ordinances are passed by Congress, just as are the laws which apply to our nation as a whole. Washington's top administrative officials are three commissioners. Two of these are appointed by the President with the Senate's approval.



**RUSH HOUR IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL.** Hundreds of thousands of residents of the District of Columbia do not have the right to vote. District residents cannot even elect their own city government officials. The President appoints three commissioners who administer the District's affairs.

The President chooses a third from among the officers of the Army Corps of Engineers. Eisenhower wants the number of commissioners raised to five if the District's present form of government is kept.

Proposals for a change in Washington's governmental setup involve two distinct issues: First, should Washington have full-fledged senators and representatives in Congress, and a voice in choosing our President? Second, should the people of the District be allowed to manage their own local government?

## Constitution Involved

As to the first question: If Washington is to get full representation in Congress and a voice in Presidential elections, there will have to be an amendment to the U. S. Constitution. District residents realize that amending the Constitution is a slow and difficult process.

Giving Washingtonians power over their own local affairs, however, would be a much simpler matter. This, it is said, could be done by act of Congress. Last year, in fact, the U. S. Senate passed a bill which would have given Washington an elected city council, and a mayor appointed by the President. The council, consisting of 15 members, would have had power to make city ordinances, subject to repeal or amendment by Congress. However, the House of Representatives failed to act on this measure and it died.

Opponents of such "home rule" proposals argue as follows:

"Our federal Constitution gives Congress the responsibility for governing

the District of Columbia, and Congress should not delegate any of its powers to a Washington city council. There is even the question of whether it can legally do so under the national Constitution.

"Washington does not belong to its residents alone. It is the capital of our whole nation. Early American leaders created it because they recognized the need for a federally controlled area to serve as headquarters of the U. S. government. Our national government should continue its direct management of the District's affairs.

"Washington's population is about two thirds white and one third Negro. If elections were allowed in that city, racial issues would play a role in every balloting. Considerable difficulties might result.

"Home rule, alone, wouldn't mean much to Washington. If any changes at all are made, they should include full participation in national—as well as local—government."

Washingtonians who seek home rule argue as follows:

"Of course we want the right to take part in national elections, but it will be hard to obtain. Meanwhile, we think the District people should be given a voice in the management of their local affairs.

"It is a disgrace that we in the capital city of the world's most powerful democracy are left voteless. We pay more federal income tax than do the people in each of 25 states. We furnished more servicemen in World War II than did each of 14 states. We outrank a dozen or more states in population. But even the most trivial

matters of local government are beyond our control.

"We admit that Congress should not give up all its powers over the District. Under recent home-rule proposals, however, it has not been asked to do so. It would retain the right to overrule our city council. On the other hand Congress would shed much of the heavy burden which District affairs now place upon it.

"As to the opposition based on racial questions, it hardly deserves an answer. Make-up of population does not stand in the way of self-government in other cities. Why should it in Washington?"

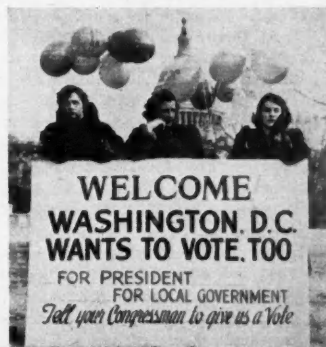
President Eisenhower, in his recent "State of the Union" message to Congress, supported the idea of local self-government for the District of Columbia.

## Should It be Territory?

Meanwhile, one of the District commissioners has recommended that a territorial form of government, similar to those now existing in Alaska and Hawaii, be established for Washington. Such an arrangement would give D. C. a local legislature, a governor, and a non-voting delegate to Congress.

Another interesting suggestion—though it stands little chance of getting serious attention at present—is that Washington be turned over to the state of Maryland, out of whose territory the District is carved. Most people probably would oppose placing our national capital in a state.

What the U. S. lawmakers will do about the various proposals on Washington remains to be seen.



**MANY CITIZENS** of Washington, D. C., are campaigning to get the right to vote

# America's Holdings Are Widely Scattered

Many Territories and Possessions in Caribbean and Pacific Areas

IN addition to Alaska and Hawaii, the United States owns and controls a number of territories scattered far off our continental shores. Some of the territories are tiny, useless dots of land in the Pacific Ocean. Others, like Puerto Rico, are important regions. The scattered territories are discussed in the following article.

**Puerto Rico.** Unlike Alaska and Hawaii, Puerto Rico isn't interested in becoming a state, at least not for the time being. Most Puerto Ricans seem quite content with the independence that is now theirs.

We obtained Puerto Rico from Spain in 1898, as a result of the Spanish-American War. U.S. military officials governed the territory at first, but government gradually was turned over to civilians. Under a new Constitution, adopted last year with the approval of Congress, Puerto Rico won practically complete independence.

Today the Puerto Ricans elect their own legislature; its laws cannot be overruled by Congress, as was once the case. Puerto Ricans also elect their own governor, and are the only territorial people to do so. The U.S. President appoints governors for other territories.

Puerto Ricans also elect a Resident Commissioner to represent them in Washington. The Commissioner has a seat in the House of Representatives and may speak before the House. He does not, however, have the right to vote on legislation.

Puerto Ricans are U.S. citizens. They may enter continental United States to live and work at any time, without any restrictions.

Puerto Ricans can and do send delegates to national conventions of the political parties to nominate candidates for President and Vice President. On the other hand, Puerto Ricans who live in their homeland may not vote in the Presidential elections. They may do so if they take up residence in a state and meet voting requirements of the state.

Under its new constitution, Puerto Rico is known as a *Commonwealth*—a term long used by Great Britain to identify Canada, Australia, the Union of South Africa, and other members



PUERTO RICO is the largest of U.S. territories in the Caribbean Sea

of the British family of nations.

Puerto Rico's governor is Luis Munoz Marin. A majority of his people support his idea that the Commonwealth arrangement is quite satisfactory. There is a large block of Puerto Ricans who hope that their land will one day become a state. They seem in no hurry about this, though.

A smaller Puerto Rican group wants complete independence from the United States, if that can be brought about peacefully and in good time.

Puerto Ricans generally are satisfied to keep their present type of government because they feel the country needs time to develop. Puerto Rico is poor. Raising the standard of living is looked upon as a far more important issue than that of statehood or independence.

Puerto Rico has a population of something over two million. Average earnings are less than \$400 a year per person. Many of the people are unemployed a good part of the year. A fifth or more of them live in slums. Disease is widespread. Many youths, probably close to half of them, do not go regularly to school.

What are the reasons for so much

poverty? We may best find out about this by taking a look at the country.

Puerto Rico, lying 950 miles southeast of Miami, Florida, has an area of 3,435 square miles—and is about 1½ times larger than Delaware. About three-fourths of the island is mountainous. Most of the people live along the narrow coastal plain, which is 10 miles wide along the northern coast and even narrower in the south. Population is packed in nearly 650 to the square mile, compared with a little over 50 to the square mile on the U. S. mainland.

Sugar is the big crop in the tropical island. But the sugar cane needs little attention, except at harvest time. So the sugar industry does not offer regular employment.

Other crops include citrus fruits and pineapple, corn, rice, coconuts, and vanilla. Such crops are small, compared with the sugar output. Often working at home, Puerto Ricans manufacture straw hats and make fine embroideries. Manufacturing provides a living to only a few people.

Because of the hardships in their own land, more and more Puerto Ricans are coming to the states to live—especially to New York City. This has led to overcrowding in certain of New York's poorer sections and has caused some trouble. Too, the Puerto Ricans often have not been able to better their lot very much.

Developing new industries in Puerto Rico is looked upon as the best way toward a better living standard. The island has rivers that can supply water power for industry. Some factories are now being built, with help from the states. In time, Puerto Rico may become fairly prosperous. That prosperity—not statehood or independence—is the island's goal now.

**Virgin Islands.** The U.S. owns 65 of the Virgin Islands (Britain has some 35) lying 40 miles east of Puerto Rico. St. Thomas, St. John, and St. Croix are the only important islands. They have a total area of only 133 square miles and a population of about 27,000. Most of the other islands are uninhabited. Sugar cane is the chief crop.

The U.S. President appoints a gov-

ernor for the islands. We bought them from Denmark in 1916. They are important as a military base. There seems little likelihood that the question of statehood or independence will be considered in the foreseeable future.

**Panama Canal Zone.** By agreement with the Republic of Panama, the U.S. controls a strip of land 10 miles wide and 40 miles long, through which runs the Panama Canal that connects the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. Population is less than 60,000, not including U.S. military forces on guard over the Canal. The U.S. President appoints a governor who administers the Canal Zone—except in wartime when it is controlled by a military commander.

**Pacific Territories.** The U.S. takes in a number of small islands in the Pacific Ocean. They include the following:

**Guam** is 216 square miles in area, with a population of about 59,000. It has local self-government. Guam is 30 miles long and from 4 to 10 miles wide. Crops include rice, coconuts, and pineapples. The explorer Magellan discovered the island in 1521. We acquired it from Spain in 1898. Guam is a U.S. air and naval base.

**American Samoa Islands** consist of seven volcanic and coral islands, with a total area of 76 square miles and a population of 19,000. The islanders handle their local affairs under supervision of the U.S. Department of Interior. Pago Pago in Samoa is one of the best harbors used by the Navy in the South Pacific. We obtained the islands as a result of negotiations with Germany in 1899.

The **Wake Islands**—Wake, Wilkes, and Peace—are together 4 square miles in area. They are uninhabited, except for military and civilian airlines personnel. Wake is a naval and air base, which we acquired from Great Britain in 1898.

**Baker, Howland, and Jarvis** are about a square mile each and uninhabited. They are used chiefly as emergency airfields.

The **Midway Islands**—Eastern and Sand—have an area of 2 square miles. Discovered by us in 1859, the islands are useful as an air and naval base. **Johnston Island**, 3,000 feet long and 600 feet wide, and **Kingman Reef**, only 150 long and 120 feet wide, are 2 of our smallest possessions and of no real value. **Canton and Enderbury**, 4 square miles in the Pacific, are controlled jointly by Britain and the U.S.

**Trust Territories.** Apart from U.S. territory, we also administer some 1,400 small Pacific Islands, with a total area of only about 846 square miles. We control them at the request of the United Nations. These territories are the Carolines, the Marianas, and the Marshalls. Population is made up of small, scattered native groups.

By an agreement with Japan, made in 1951, we administer a number of Japanese islands which are valuable to us as defense bases. These include Okinawa and the other Ryuku Islands, which form a 650-mile chain and have a population of about 1 million, Iwo Jima, and several others off the Japanese coast.



U.S. POSSESSIONS in the Pacific Ocean are spread over a wide area

## Readers Say—

As I see it, freedom of expression in our schools is threatened by two things: (1) there is some danger that a few disloyal teachers are spreading communism among their pupils; and (2) investigations of our schools may lead to the suppression of free thought in the classroom. I believe the second of these presents the greatest threat to our free system of education.

I agree that communism is a great danger to our country, but there is little evidence that there are many Reds in our schools. If, on the other hand, a teacher's every word is checked for traces of "un-Americanism", no individual will feel free to express any opinions whatsoever on the big issues of the day. Then, freedom of thought and speech will disappear from the classroom.

BETTY LEE ANCARROW,  
Richmond, Virginia

★

By all means, we should have an investigation of our schools. If we do have teachers and texts in our classrooms that are pro-Red, they should be rooted out of our educational system. Moreover, I believe that the best qualified investigators of schools are our congressmen. The nation's lawmakers have had experience in weighing evidence on a great number of important issues presented to them. They would undoubtedly do a fair and efficient job of ridding our schools of communist influence.

MARIE FITZWATER,  
Kansas City, Missouri

★

I am opposed to the plan on holiday changes suggested by the National Association of Travel Organizations. I think certain holidays would lose their real meaning to us if we did not celebrate them at the established time.

RITA MARIE RESCH,  
Tolley, North Dakota

★

I found your article on the "Continent of Tomorrow" very interesting. We don't often stop to think of Africa's importance among the continents of the world. I feel our country should help the Africans develop their lands. This would cement the ties of friendship between that continent's people and the United States.

PAT ROSS,  
Jacksonville, Florida



I believe all schools should have three or four "Parent Days" each year. On such days, parents and other citizens should be invited to see their schools in action. In this way, people could see firsthand what is going on in the classroom, and they would be less likely to make reckless charges against our educational system.

DAVID TONESY,  
Chappaqua, New York

★

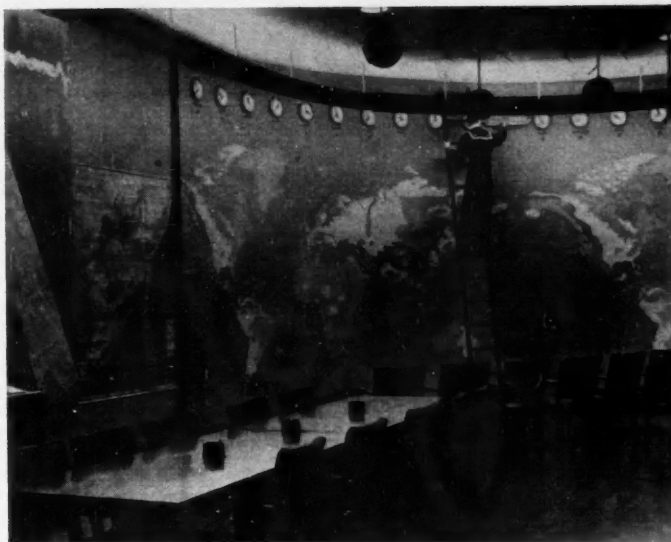
I'd like to express my thanks to Mr. Walter E. Myer for his inspiring editorials. I believe all students should take time out to read his words over and over again. It will be time well spent.

DOTIE CRASE,  
Rockland, Michigan

★

North Africa is of importance to us as well as to the French. A number of our vital air defense bases are located in that part of the globe. Therefore, I feel that we should help France maintain peace and order in her rebellious African colonies.

LEON BUSENBARK,  
Grover, Utah



THE MAP ROOM in the Pentagon, Department of Defense headquarters

### SERVING THE NATION

## The Department of Defense

*This is the fifth in a series of special features on important government offices and the men and women who run them. This week's article deals with the Defense Department and Secretary Charles E. Wilson.*

**W**ILSON once described himself as a citizen who is trying to make a contribution to our society, hoping to be rewarded for his work by winning the approval of his fellow Americans. As Secretary of Defense, he hopes to realize these aims.

Born 62 years ago in Minerva, Ohio, Wilson decided early in life to become an engineer. A friendly railroad man, who showed young Wilson the mechanics of a steam locomotive, was partly responsible for this decision. Before celebrating his 19th birthday, Wilson graduated from the Carnegie Institute of Technology with a degree in electrical engineering.

The young engineer then took a job as an 18-cent-an-hour apprentice at the Westinghouse Electric Company. After staying with Westinghouse for 10 years, Wilson accepted an offer to become manager of a General Motors Corporation branch factory. In 1939, he was made vice president of GM, and two years later he became president of the gigantic industrial firm.

During World War II, Wilson's plants turned out huge quantities of weapons for the nation's defense arsenal. In those years, the former GM president became familiar with all kinds of defense production problems, and how to overcome them. This knowledge stands him in good stead as Defense Secretary.

Wilson thinks nothing of putting in 60 or more hours of work a week. Quite frequently the lights of his offices, in the Pentagon building across the Potomac River from Washington, D.C., stay on far into the night.

As Secretary of Defense, businessman Wilson heads what is often called the "nation's largest business establishment." The Defense Department spends billions of dollars a year for national security, employs over 1,330,000 civilian workers, and supervises the activities of some 3½ million men and women in the armed forces. The Defense Department is by far the

biggest of all government agencies.

Wilson has a number of helpers to assist him with his many duties. Deputy Defense Secretary Roger Kyes is Wilson's right-hand man and helps supervise the far-flung activities of the Department. Kyes also acts as Defense Secretary when his chief is away on official business.

Wilson has a number of other top-flight helpers, including four officials with the rank of Assistant Secretary. One of these officials advises the Secretary on money matters. Another deals with personnel problems and sees to it that the armed forces, as well as defense industries, get the manpower they need.

A third official advises Wilson on matters relating to overseas military aid and the defense problems of our allies. A fourth Assistant Secretary works on all legal problems that concern the Department, and helps prepare proposed defense legislation for congressional consideration.

After the Defense Department was set up in 1947, it brought the former War (Army), Navy, and newly established Air Force Departments under one big agency. Each of these Departments still has its own Secretary who reports to Wilson. Moreover, a group of top leaders from the chief branches of the armed forces, known as the Joint Chiefs of Staff, advise the Defense Secretary on the nation's preparedness programs.



CHARLES ERWIN WILSON, our new Secretary for Defense

## How to Judge

By Walter E. Myer

SOME 120 years ago, a young man sought to enter the famous music school at Milan, in the land that is now Italy. The authorities there, however, refused to admit him. They said he didn't have enough talent.

Although deeply disappointed, the youth persisted with his musical studies. His eventual success proved that he had been justified in doing so. He was Giuseppe Verdi, who lived to hear himself acclaimed as one of the world's greatest composers. Opera fans know him as the creator of such works as *Aida* and *Rigoletto*, and practically everybody is familiar with the stirring rhythm of his "Anvil Chorus" from *Il Trovatore*. What a loss it would have been for the world if Verdi had abandoned music as a result of his early disappointment!

It is not easy to draw clear-cut conclusions from this story of the great composer. The lesson which it contains will vary for different individuals. To the person with genuine talent it offers encouragement. The ghost of Verdi can be heard saying, "Go ahead. Have faith in yourself. If you think you possess ability, develop it regardless of setbacks."

At this point, though, a question arises. What about the person who does not actually have outstanding talent in the field where his early ambitions lie? What if Verdi, instead of being a genius, had simply been an overconfident youth with mediocre ability in the field of music? In such a case, his persistence in going ahead with a musical career would have resulted in a waste of time and money, and probably caused him great unhappiness. It would then have been better if he had devoted his energy to preparing for success in some other kind of work.

Verdi, after being rejected at Milan, must have wondered whether he really had the talent that would make further sacrifices for musical study worth while. But finally he decided to continue, and this decision paid off.

What should a young person under similar circumstances do now? About the only piece of general advice that can be given is that he should take careful stock of himself and of his abilities. He should consult with friends, and with people who are experienced in the field he hopes to enter—whether it be music, writing, science, or some other line.

He ought not to accept an early setback as a sign of complete failure. Neither should he simply ignore it and go plunging heedlessly ahead. He should—as Giuseppe Verdi undoubtedly did—take it as an occasion for re-evaluating his plans and his capabilities.

A reader has asked how American students may help out in flood relief in the Netherlands. We are informed by the Netherlands Embassy in Washington that adequate supplies of blankets and clothing have already been donated, and that no further contributions of this nature are needed.

However, students or others who wish to contribute money to be used for flood relief may do so by sending it to Holland Flood Relief, Inc., c/o Seamans Bank for Savings, 74 Wall St., New York, N. Y. Gifts of this kind will be gratefully received. It will require hundreds of millions of dollars to repair all the flood damage.

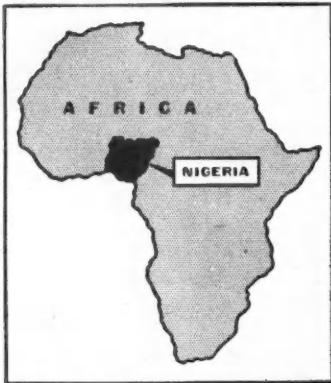
# The Story of the Week

## Alphabet for Nigeria

The 23 million inhabitants of Nigeria, a British-supervised land in western Africa, may soon get a written language of their own. At present, the country's people, who speak 50 or more separate dialects, do not even have an alphabet for their native tongues.

A young American, Dr. Hans Wolff who teaches English at the University of Puerto Rico, is tackling the job of providing a common written language for Nigeria. Sent to Africa by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Dr. Wolff has a year's time to complete the job.

One of the first problems he will



DRAWN FOR THE AMERICAN OBSERVER BY JOHNSON  
NIGERIA, in West Africa

try to solve is to work out a tongue that all Nigerians can understand. Language variations now make it almost impossible for the people of one village to understand the speech of neighboring villages. So Dr. Wolff is going from place to place, making recordings of the various spoken dialects. Later, he will use these recordings to help him in establishing a common Nigerian language, and in adopting the tongue to the Latin alphabet.

## Eisenhower's Program

Congress is now tackling a number of legislative proposals which were outlined a short time ago by President Dwight Eisenhower and Republican congressional leaders. The President wants the lawmakers to give consideration to these and other measures before Congress adjourns later this year:

1. Bills granting aid funds to other nations, and providing the money needed by government agencies to carry on their work.
2. A proposal to keep in force existing foreign trade laws under which Uncle Sam agrees to reduce tariffs on goods coming from abroad if other nations agree to similar tariff cuts.
3. New old-age insurance laws which would grant benefits to additional groups of people after they reach the age of 65.
4. Continued temporary federal aid to schools that are in serious need of help.
5. Statehood for Hawaii.
6. Proposals to make certain changes in the Taft-Hartley Labor Act.
7. A bill under which the rights to our offshore oil deposits would be

handed over to the individual states.

8. A measure to keep in effect certain existing government controls over the use of materials needed for defense production.

9. A proposal to add two new members to the three-member group that manages the governing affairs of the District of Columbia.

10. A measure to simplify our laws relating to taxes on imports.

## New Ambassadors

Two Americans who are getting ready to take over foreign diplomatic posts are Mrs. Clare Boothe Luce and C. Douglas Dillon. Mrs. Luce was asked by President Dwight Eisenhower to serve as United States envoy to Italy, and Dillon is scheduled to take over as ambassador to France.

Clare Boothe Luce, wife of *Time-Life* publisher Henry Luce, is a woman of many careers. She has written successful plays, worked as a magazine editor, a columnist, and has served in Congress. Born 49 years ago in New York City, she moved to Connecticut at an early age and later represented her adopted state in Congress from 1943 to 1947.

Mrs. Luce is slated to replace Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker, who now represents the United States in Rome. President Eisenhower has asked Mr. Bunker to stay on at his post for a while to help Italy's democratic political parties win out over communist opposition in the forthcoming Italian elections.

C. Douglas Dillon is putting aside his duties as president of the Dillon and Read Company, one of the nation's largest investment firms, to accept the French diplomatic post. Born 43 years ago of American parents in Geneva, Switzerland, Dillon took over as head of his family's investment business in 1946.

## German Refugees

New barriers are going up between Soviet-controlled East Berlin and free West Berlin. The Reds are tearing down buildings to clear the way for special barricades to block the growing flood of refugees from communist

areas. In other parts of Germany, where the Iron Curtain cuts the former enemy nation in two, the Soviets are also strengthening barriers along the frontier.

Despite these and other efforts by Russian leaders to keep the unhappy people under their rule from escaping to non-communist territories, many thousands of Germans manage to cross the Iron Curtain to freedom. In one week earlier this month, for example, nearly 8,000 Germans risked punishment at the hands of the communist police to flee to West Berlin. At the same time, additional refugees fled across the Soviet barriers in other parts of Germany.

Though democratic Germany is greeting escapees from lands on the other side of the Iron Curtain with open arms, the incoming flood of refugees is a big problem for crowded West Berlin and for the entire German nation. There simply is not enough food or housing to go around. For this reason, the West German government is now calling on the United Nations to help care for the refugees.

## Fewer Controls

Next April 30, most of the nation's economic control laws are due to expire. These laws grant the President authority to limit the prices that sellers can charge for a number of goods.

Step by step, President Dwight Eisenhower is now abolishing existing economic control regulations. Earlier this month, he set aside rules that formerly limited wage and salary boosts. He also canceled regulations that had set ceiling prices on certain foods, clothing, and other consumers' goods. According to the White House, other price-control rules will be lifted on or before April 30.

Meanwhile, the President is asking Congress to give him continued authority to (1) limit rental charges in areas where there is a critical housing shortage; and (2) supervise the use by industries of important materials needed for defense production. Laws granting these special powers to the Chief Executive are scheduled to lapse next June 30.



WIDE WORLD  
MRS. CLARE BOOTHE LUCE, nominated by President Eisenhower to be the U.S. Ambassador to Italy. She's a playwright, former Congresswoman from Connecticut, and wife of Henry Luce of *Time-Life-Fortune* magazines.

## Programs From Abroad

If you have a radio, and live in New York City, Chicago, or in one of about 120 other communities scattered across the nation, you will soon be able to tune in on special new programs. Starting next month, you may listen to plays put on in Paris theaters, operas staged in Italy, and many other programs presenting cultural and entertainment achievements of foreign lands.

The special programs are to be broadcast by member stations of the National Association of Educational Broadcasters. The NAEB is made up of broadcasters who are interested in putting educational programs on the air. Many of the group's stations are run by schools or other educational institutions.

The NAEB's new programs will be recorded overseas and then presented on American stations. In return for programs it receives from abroad, the educational broadcasters plan to send recordings of outstanding American music, plays, and the like to foreign countries for broadcast over their radio networks. The NAEB hopes the exchange of radio programs will help to strengthen friendly ties between Americans and people of other lands.

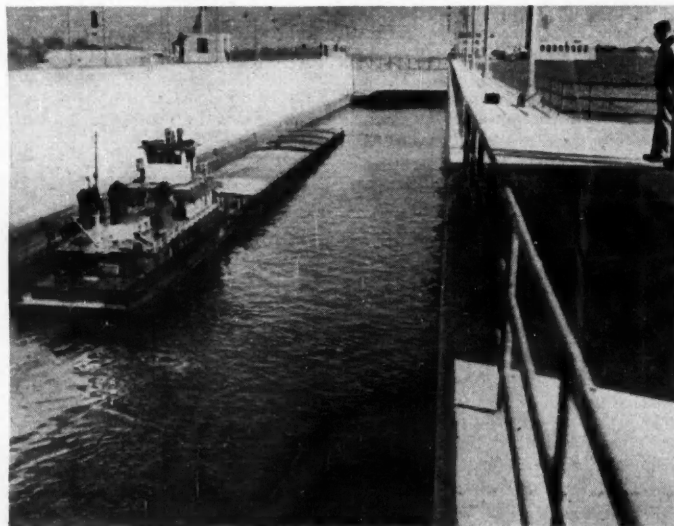
## China Blockade?

Should the United States blockade Red China's coastal ports in an effort to force the Chinese communists to make peace in Korea? This question is now being discussed in the halls of Congress, and is certain to be an important issue in the UN meetings which open tomorrow.

Those congressmen and other citizens who oppose a U.S. blockade of China's coast have this to say:

"If we try to close Red China's ports to world trade, the result may be all-out war—a war for which we are not prepared. The Chinese communists have military agreements with Moscow. And a blockade, which is generally regarded as a warlike act, might bring about a Chinese-Soviet declaration of war against us. Besides, closing Red China's ports would not do much to weaken the communists militarily because our Far East enemy gets most of his weapons from Russia by overland routes.

"Too, Britain, France, and some of



NEW CANAL OPENS. A tugboat and barges pass through Rocks Canal and locks at St. Louis, Missouri. The route, built at a cost of 40 million dollars, by-passes a treacherous 7-mile stretch of the Mississippi River.

our other allies strongly oppose plans to close China's ports to outside trade. We may lose the support of these nations if we go ahead without their approval. Finally, a number of non-communist southeast Asian lands depend on Chinese trade for a livelihood. These countries may be lost to communism if we block their trade, most of which consists of non-military goods anyway."

Those Americans who favor closing Red China's ports to foreign trade take this view:

"Actually, we already have been at war with the Chinese communists ever since their troops swarmed down on our forces in Korea more than two years ago. Blockading enemy ports would not involve much risk of a bigger war in the Far East. It's true that Red China gets most of its arms from the Soviets, but she also obtains vital war-making goods from many other parts of the globe. If these shipments were cut off, it would hurt the war efforts of the communist foe."

"As for the opposition to a blockade by our allies, we should try to win them over to our point of view. But whether or not they support us, we must do all we can to end the fighting in Korea. Shutting off China's overseas trade may force the Chinese Reds to end the Korean war."

### South of Europe

There is good and bad news from the Near East these days for the Allied nations. The good news comes from Egypt.

About 10 days ago, Egypt's General Mohammed Naguib and British leaders signed an agreement to grant independence to the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan. Ownership of this huge African territory has long been a bitter bone of contention between Egypt and England, and led to violent anti-British riots in the streets of the Egyptian capital of Cairo not too long ago.

Now, Britain and Egypt are planning to work hand-in-hand to help the Sudan stand on its own feet. A mixed group of Sudanese, Egyptian, British, Indian, and American repre-



GENERAL-DADDY Matthew Ridgway, commander of NATO forces in Europe, plays "horse" for his son's sled on a vacation at Garmisch, German winter resort

sentatives is to supervise an election under which the Sudan will choose a temporary governing body. Other international bodies will be called upon to supervise the Sudan's further steps to independence. Under the agreement, the Sudan is to be free within three years, or as soon as its people feel they are ready for self-rule.

The friendly British-Egyptian agreement on the Sudan has done much to better relations between the Middle East Arab countries and the western nations. However, trouble is brewing on another front in this part of the globe.

A short time ago, Russia, which has been waging a campaign of mounting intensity against Jews everywhere of late, cut its diplomatic ties with Israel. The Soviets used the Jewish extremist bombing of the Russian Legation in Israel as an excuse for their action.

Many observers are afraid, though, that the Red anti-Jewish campaign at home and abroad is really an effort to win the oil-rich Arab nations over to the Soviet side. Most Middle Eastern countries have been bitter enemies

of the Jews ever since Israel was set up as an independent country in territories once claimed by the Arabs. Now it appears that the Russians have decided to take definite sides with the Arabs as against the Jews in Israel, since the latter nation has the support of the western powers.

### America's UN Team

There will be some new faces among the American team of representatives at the United Nations when the second half of the 1952-1953 General Assembly session opens tomorrow. Heading the U.S. delegation is Henry Cabot Lodge, our ambassador to the UN.

A former senator from Massachusetts, Lodge has long been interested in world affairs. As a young newspaperman, he eagerly sought assignments that took him to many parts of the globe. After he became a U.S. senator in 1937, he took an active part in congressional foreign policy matters. Except for four years when he served in the Army during World War II, Lodge represented his state in the Senate from 1937 until 1953.

Lodge's right-hand man and deputy ambassador to the UN is James Wadsworth. A native of New York, Wadsworth has served much of his adult life as a public official. For a time he was a member of his state's legislature. Later, he served in a number of special World War II and postwar agencies in the federal government.

Mrs. Mary Lord, another U.S. representative to the United Nations, serves on the world organization's Commission on Human Rights. A native of Minnesota, the 48-year-old Mrs. Lord has long been an active worker in social welfare activities and in civil defense projects.

When you meet the President, how should you address him—Mr. President or General? Either is all right, say Eisenhower's advisers. The President isn't fussy.

American Reds would rather talk about communism than live under it. When 13 communist leaders were recently found guilty of breaking our laws, the judge asked them whether they would rather go to Russia or to jail. The Reds chose prison!

## SPORTS

WILL anyone ever run a mile in four minutes or under? This question, long a favorite subject for debate among track fans, has come to the fore again as the result of several outstanding running performances this winter.

In December John Landy, a 22-year-old Australian, ran a mile in 4:02.1 (four minutes, two and one tenth seconds). It was the nearest approach to the four-minute mile that any runner has achieved in several years.

Later Landy made three other attempts to run the first four-minute mile but he was unable to better the time he recorded in December. The University of Melbourne student now feels that he is past his peak this season. He is going to wait some months before he runs again.

Gunder Haegg, a Swedish athlete, holds the world's record for the mile run. In 1945 "Gunder the Wonder" missed the four-minute mile by only about a second and one half. His time was 4:01.4.

Glenn Cunningham, who is now a Kansas rancher, turned in the best time ever made by an American. In 1938 on an indoor track at Dartmouth College, Cunningham sped a mile in 4:04.4.



RECORD HOLDER Johnny Kopil (left). His 4:20.1 is the fastest mile ever run by a high school trackster in the United States. Johnny is a senior at Bayonne, New Jersey.

One of the finest performances of the winter in the mile run was turned in by 18-year-old Johnny Kopil of Bayonne (New Jersey) High School. In a New York meet, he set a new U.S. high school record of 4:20.1, breaking a scholastic record that had stood for 19 years. If Kopil shows the normal amount of improvement during his college years, he may some day be gunning for the four-minute mark.

Most sports authorities agree that someone will run a mile in four minutes or under one of these days. They point out that the record time for the distance has dropped steadily over the years. Twenty-five years ago no one had ever run a mile in less than 4:10, yet today many runners can consistently better that figure. Of course, the limit of human endurance will eventually be reached, but before that day arrives, most track authorities think that someone will have raced a mile in four minutes or less.

## THE LIGHTER SIDE

A wise woman makes her husband think he's head of the house when he's only chairman of the entertainment committee.

Recruit: "Well, one thing fits."  
Supply Sergeant: "Which one?"  
Recruit: "The necktie."

Some minds are like concrete. All mixed up and permanently set.



WALKER IN SATURDAY EVENING POST  
"Are you satisfied the amount is correct now, sir?"

Little Johnny had been vaccinated and the doctor started to put on a bandage. Johnny asked him to put it on the other arm.

"But," said the doctor, "the bandage should be on the sore arm, so that the boys at school won't hit it."  
"Put it on the other arm," Johnny insisted. "You don't know those boys."

Wife: "Tell me, doctor, what is my husband's trouble?"

Doctor: "He has an extreme case of voluntary inertia."

Wife: "Poor man—and here I thought he was just plain lazy."

Joe told Jim that he had gone to a lawyer for advice.

"Why spend money on a lawyer?" asked Jim. "Didn't you notice that he read the advice out of a book?"

"Sure," replied Joe. But he knows what page it's on."

Candidate for Congress: "Gentlemen, you accuse me of being a turncoat. Years ago I did support this measure. Then I had a reason. But now, gentlemen, I have lost my reason."

# Careers for Tomorrow

## Owning a Retail Shop

IN planning your career you may be interested in owning a retail shop—a sporting goods store, if your interest is in athletics; a clothing store, if you have an eye for fashion; or a shop handling electrical equipment, if your aptitudes lie in electrical fields.

The retail business is one of the largest in the country and many people find it rewarding. Nevertheless, if you think you may want to open a retail business of some sort, you should study the possibilities very carefully before making a final decision. The work is not easy; it requires a combination of salesmanship, ambition, common sense, and merchandising instinct; and the percentage of failures is high, especially among newcomers.

### Preparation

In school, such subjects as English, psychology, bookkeeping, accounting, merchandising, advertising, and business management can be very helpful in preparing for this career. But your real vocational education will come through on-the-job experience.

Actually, you can begin now to get experience by finding a part-time job as a salesperson. Such a job will not pay a high salary, especially since you will probably work only on Saturday or during holidays, but it will give you an insight into the retail business and

will indicate whether or not you like this field.

Your first full-time job will probably be a sales position. In such a job you can learn how to deal with the buying public. You may also want to work in a stockroom or in the office of a retail store, and you may hold several supervisory positions in different departments of the store. Your apprenticeship will be what you make it, but the more you know before you set out on your own, the greater will be your chances of success.

### Plan in Advance

The need for advance planning before you open a store cannot be over-emphasized. There are many questions to be considered, such as the cost of setting up a shop, its location and size, the amount of stock that should be purchased, the number of employees that will be needed.

The best advice on these problems can be secured from persons who know the conditions in your locality. Real estate men, bankers, and officials of the local chamber of commerce can give you valuable advice. Rough estimates indicate that a person must plan to spend between \$2,500 and \$15,000 in opening a small retail establishment; and that he must be able to finance its operation for at least two



SALESMEN must know how to please the customer in selling goods

years. Only in rare instances will a retail business show a profit until its third year. Many of them, unfortunately, do not get out of the red even in that period of time.

The incomes of successful retailers vary greatly. One may make only a few hundred dollars above expenses, while another may have an income that is quite high. Very few accurate figures on earnings in this field are available.

Two pamphlets on the retail field can be obtained free of charge from the Domestic Distribution Department, Chamber of Commerce of the United States, Washington 6, D. C. One is "What It Takes to Be a Retailer." The other, entitled "General References for Prospective Businessmen," lists other sources of information.

## Study Guide

### U. S. Territories

1. What stand has President Eisenhower taken on the Hawaiian statehood question? How has he disappointed many Alaskans?
2. Briefly describe the way in which Hawaii and Alaska are governed at the present time.
3. What are some of the powers they would gain if admitted to the Union?
4. What do opponents of Hawaiian and Alaskan statehood say about the distance of these territories from our present states? How do statehood advocates reply?
5. List some additional arguments for and against admission of Hawaii to the Union. Do the same in the case of Alaska.
6. Give a brief geographical description of each of these two territories.
7. Tell how the District of Columbia is now governed.
8. What would have to be done in order to give the District full representation in Congress and a voice in Presidential elections?
9. Present some arguments for and against giving Washingtonians control over their own local affairs.
10. Describe Puerto Rico's present government.
11. Explain our country's relationship with the trust territories which it now controls.
12. How did the United States acquire Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and the Canal Zone?

### Discussion

1. Do you think Hawaii should be admitted to the Union? If so, do you think Alaska also should receive statehood? Give reasons for your answers to both of these questions.
2. In your opinion, how should the problem of governing the District of Columbia be solved? In answering this question, try to put yourself in the position of the people who live in the District and who do not have voting privileges.

### Miscellaneous

1. Who is Secretary of Defense, and what are the three big agencies under his department?
2. What is the language problem in Nigeria, and what attempt is being made to solve it?
3. How many of the 10 measures which Eisenhower wants Congress to consider can you identify?
4. Who has been appointed as our ambassador to Italy?
5. What is the best evidence that there is widespread dissatisfaction in East Germany?
6. Briefly give some of the pros and cons on the question of whether we should blockade Red China's coastal ports.
7. How has John Kopil of Bayonne (New Jersey) High School distinguished himself?
8. What encouraging development has taken place in British-Egyptian relations?
9. How have Russian-Israeli relations taken a turn for the worse?

### References

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- "Puerto Rico's Industrial Revolution," *Business Week*, November 15, 1952.
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- "Alaska Begins To Hit Her Stride," by R. L. Duffus, *New York Times Magazine*, November 2, 1952.
- "Hawaii and Alaska," *Congressional Digest*, November 1950. (Even though this reference is more than two years old, it is as timely today as it was when it first appeared.)

## Historical Backgrounds - - U. S. Territories

THE United States acquired its territories and other possessions in several ways—by discovery and settlement, by negotiation with other nations, by purchase, and as a result of the Spanish-American War. Today, these lands cover about 600,000 square miles—an area just about equal to Texas, Colorado, California, and Idaho combined.

Alaska was owned by Russia for many years. Captain Vitus Bering, a Danish navigator serving in the Russian navy, explored the coast, and landed in the Aleutian Islands in 1741. Later the Russians set up a thriving fur trade in Alaska. However, Russia decided that she was not getting enough return on the outlay she was making, and finally offered to sell Alaska to the United States.

In 1867 we bought the territory from Russia for \$7,200,000. Secretary of State William Seward was widely ridiculed for having carried out the purchase. One congressman called Alaska "the refrigerator of the United States," and it was also described as "Seward's Folly." The great wealth that has poured out of Alaska since 1867, together with its military value, has long since justified Seward's action. There is no doubt that Soviet Russia wishes she owned this territory at the present time.

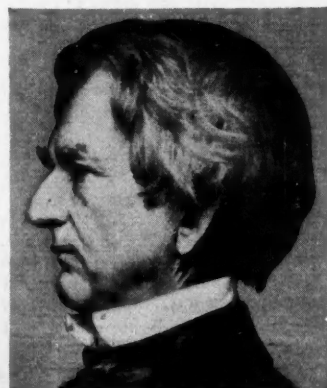
Hawaii was discovered by Captain Cook, the famous explorer of the South Seas, in 1778. The English navigator named the island chain the Sandwich Islands in honor of the Earl of Sandwich, who had helped finance Cook's trip. Nevertheless, the natives continued to call their main island "Owyhee," which means "big island." White men, hearing the word,

spelled it "Hawaii", and this name replaced the one used by Cook.

A considerable number of Americans settled in the islands, and in the latter part of the 19th century many of them asked that Hawaii, then under native rule, be annexed by the United States. In 1898, after negotiations with Hawaii's leaders, we took over the island group.

Puerto Rico, America's largest possession in the Caribbean area, can look back on a stirring history. The island was discovered by Columbus in 1493 on his second trip to the new world, and was claimed for Spain.

The first governor of the West Indian island was Ponce de Leon. While exploring the island, Ponce de Leon found the excellent bay which is today the harbor of San Juan, the island's capital. He named it Puerto Rico—Spanish for "rich port." Later the name came to refer to the entire



WILLIAM SEWARD, while Secretary of State, got the U.S. to buy Alaska from Russia

island. Ponce de Leon also discovered Florida while searching for the Fountain of Youth.

When the U.S. and Spain went to war in 1898, our warships bombarded San Juan, and 3,400 troops landed on the south coast of the island. Hostilities were brief. About two months later, Puerto Rico was ceded to the United States.

The Virgin Islands, lying about 40 miles east of Puerto Rico, were also discovered by Columbus. The islands were acquired by Denmark in 1672. They remained in Danish possession until 1917 when we purchased them for 25 million dollars mainly for use as a military base.

The Panama Canal Zone was acquired by the United States in 1903. From the government of Panama we secured the right to dig a canal across the isthmus, and to control completely a strip of land 10 miles wide from the Atlantic to the Pacific. We paid Panama 10 million dollars, and, later, a yearly rental fee for the privilege of using the land.

At the time of the treaty, Panama had just declared itself independent of Colombia. There has always been discussion over the extent to which the United States encouraged Panama's revolt and helped to make it succeed. Colombia had previously turned down our offer for the canal site.

In addition to the areas we have discussed, we own a number of tiny islands in the Pacific. They include Guam, Wake, Midway, and Samoa. We also administer the Carolines, the Marshalls, and the Marianas as trustee for the United Nations (see page 4 article).